

2007-2008 SENATE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE ROSTER

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE RULES 2007-2008

1. A quorum for the Committee shall be seven (7) members.
2. The Chair shall determine bills and resolutions to be considered and the order in which such are called.
3. A bill, resolution, or other matter will be considered only after presentation by the principal author or a legislator whom he/she may designate. In the event more than one member of the General Assembly has signed a measure, the principal author shall be the one whose name appears first in the list of authors.
4. The Committee shall convene, recess, and adjourn upon the order of the Chair.
5. The rules of the Senate shall prevail in all matters not covered by Committee rules.
6. These rules may be amended upon motion duly made and subsequently approved by three-fourths of the members of the Committee provided that written notice has been given 48 hours prior to the Committee meeting.
7. Any member(s) of the Committee who disagrees with the majority report of the Committee shall have the privilege to file a minority report.
8. The Chair shall have the authority to refer bills and resolutions to subcommittees for study. Such subcommittees shall have the authority to make recommendations to the full Committee; but no measure will be returned to the full Senate except after consideration by full Committee.

**THE JOINT SENATE AND HOUSE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE** met in Room 406 of the CLOB, January 23, 2007, at 2:05 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Pearson, (51st), Chair
Rogers, (21st), Vice-Chair
Chance, (16th)
Hooks, (14th)
Mullis, (53rd)
Murphy, (27th)
Schaefer, (50th)
Tarver, (22nd)
Thompson, (5th)
Whitehead, (24th)

Chairman Pearson called the meeting to order. The joint House and Senate Committee meeting was suspended to take up Senate business. Vice-Chairman Rogers called the roll and ten members were present. Senators Brown and Carter were absent. The rules of the committee were discussed. Senator Mullis made a motion to adopt the Rules and Senator Whitehead seconded the motion. The motion carried 9-0.

NOTE: **Senator Brown, 26th**, arrived at 2:13 p.m.

SR 49 (Sen. Pearson, 51st) Justice, U.S. Dept. of; urged to oppose the proposed unsolicited takeover of Delta Air Lines

Chairman Pearson presented the bill and explained that this resolution is urging the United States Department of Justice to oppose the proposed unsolicited takeover of Delta Air Lines; and for other purposes. There were no questions from the members and no one spoke to the bill. Senator Murphy made the motion that **SR 49 DO PASS**. Senator Rogers seconded the motion. The bill passed 10-0.

NOTE: **Senator Carter, 13th**, arrived at 2:16 p.m.

With no further Senate business, Chairman Pearson turned the meeting over to House Chairman Ron Stephens, 164th, to attend to House business.

Upon the completion of House business, the meeting resumed as a joint meeting.

Speakers included Peggy Jolley, President of Georgia Economic Developers Association; Dan McRae, Chair of GEDA Public Policy committee; Becca Hardin, Executive Vice President of the Greater Columbus Chamber of Commerce and Development Authority; Pat Topping, Senior Vice President of Macon Economic Development Commission; Ken Stewart, Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Economic Development.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:59 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Senator Joseph Carter of the 13th, Secretary

/s/ Donna Yeomans, Recording Secretary

THE SENATE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE met in Room 310 of the CLOB, February 28, 2007, at 4:54 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Pearson, (51st), Chair
Rogers, (21st), Vice-Chair
Carter, (13th) Secretary
Chance, (16th)
Hooks, (14th)
Mullis, (53rd)
Schaefer, (50th)
Whitehead, (24th)

Chairman Pearson called the meeting to order. Senator Carter, 13th, called the roll and eight members were present. Senators Brown, 26th, Murphy, 27th, Tarver, 22nd, and Thompson, 33rd, were absent.

HB 132 (Representative Stephens, 164th) Vessels; certain ports; numbers of pilots; change certain provisions

Representative Stephens presented the bill and explained that this legislation increases the allowable number of licensed pilots for the port of Savannah from 17 to 21; and from 6 to 8 for the port of Brunswick. Because these pilots are compensated by the vessels and shipping lines they handle, there is not a fiscal impact to the state. Jon Pannell from the Savannah Pilots' Association spoke in favor of the bill. Senator Hooks, 14th, made the motion that **HB 132 "DO PASS."** Senator Mullis, 53rd, seconded the motion. The bill passed 7-0.

NOTE: **Senators Murphy, 27th, and Tarver, 22nd**, arrived at 5:12 p.m.

NOTE: **Senator Hooks, 14th**, arrived at 5:15 p.m.

SB 154 (Senator Murphy, 27th) Municipal Corporations; agreements with solid waste collection firms; territory annexed/incorporated

Senator Murphy presented the bill and explained that this legislation requires compensation for economic loss to be paid to solid waste collection firms by the municipal corporation displacing the firm due to the annexation or incorporation of previously unincorporated areas. Murray Griffin from National Solid Waste Management Association and Sheryl Collie from North Metro Waste spoke in favor of the bill. Opposition was heard by Tom Gehl from GMA, Mayor Logsdon of Peachtree City, Cam Jordan from the City of Fitzgerald, Mayor Steele from the City of Fayetteville, and Mayor Turner from the City of Gordon.

NOTE: **Senator Mullis, 53rd**, left at 5:33 p.m.

NOTE: **Senator Brown, 26th**, arrived at 5:42 p.m.

Senator Murphy, 27th, made the motion that **SB 154 "DO PASS."** Senator Rogers, 21st, seconded the motion. The bill passed 8-1; Senator Brown, 26th, was opposed and Senator Mullis, 53rd, was not present for the vote.

Chairman Pearson appointed Senator Brown, 26th, to Chair a subcommittee on the Sports and Music Hall of Fame.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:46 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Senator Joseph Carter of the 13th, Secretary

/s/ Donna Yeomans, Recording Secretary

THE SENATE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE met in Room 310 of the CLOB, March 13, 2007, at 4:06 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Pearson, (51st), Chair
Rogers, (21st), Vice-Chair
Carter, (13th) Secretary
Chance, (16th)
Mullis, (53rd)
Murphy, (27th)
Schaefer, (50th)
Tarver, (22nd)

Chairman Pearson called the meeting to order. Senator Carter, 13th, called the roll and eight members were present. Senators Brown, 26th, Hooks, 14th, Thompson, 33rd, and Whitehead, 24th, were absent.

SB 267 (Senator Hamrick, 30th) Georgia Condominium Act; define certain terms; declarant shall pay certain expenses; provide exceptions; subcondominium

Senator Hamrick presented the bill and offered a substitute. Senator Hamrick explained that this legislation requires the owner or lessee of the property to pay for all common expenses until the association makes the first common expense assessment. Thereafter, no unit owner, other than the association, will be exempt from any liability for any assessment. Testimony for the bill was given by Seth Weissman. Randy Lipchitz testified that they were opposed to the original draft of the legislation, but believes most of their issues have been resolved at this point. Senator Mullis, 53rd, made the motion that **SB 267 “DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE.”** Senator Rogers, 21st, seconded the motion. The bill passed 7-0.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Senator Joseph Carter of the 13th, Secretary

/s/ Donna Yeomans, Recording Secretary

THE SENATE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE met in Room 310 of the CLOB, April 12, 2007.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Pearson, (51st), Chair
Rogers, (21st), Vice-Chair
Carter, (13th) Secretary
Chance, (16th)
Hooks, (14th)
Schaefer, (50th)
Whitehead, (24th)

Chairman Pearson called the meeting to order at 8:37 a.m. Senator Carter, 13th, called the roll and seven members were present. Senators Brown, 26th, Mullis, 53rd, Murphy, 27th, Tarver, 22nd, and Thompson, 33rd, were absent.

SR 480 (Senator Carter, 13th) Increasing Cargo Capacity at Georgia Ports; create Senate study committee

Senator Carter presented the bill and explained that this resolution creates the Senate Study Committee on Increasing Cargo Capacity at Georgia Ports. No one spoke to the bill and no amendments or substitutes were offered. Senator Hooks, 14th, made the motion that **SR 480 “DO PASS.”** Senator Chance, 16th, seconded the motion. The bill passed 6-0.

NOTE: Senator Mullis, 53rd, arrived at 8:43 a.m.

HB 383 (Representative Mills, 25th) Georgia Condominium Act; define terms; provisions

Representative Mills presented the bill and explained that this legislation had no significant changes to SB 267, "Georgia Condominium Act," which had previously passed. Darryl Moss, from WNCW, and Michael Zenner, from ACI-LAC, spoke in support of the bill. No amendments or substitutes were offered. Senator Mullis, 53rd, made the motion that **HB 383 “DO PASS.”** Senator Carter, 13th, seconded the motion. The bill passed 7-0.

HB 430 (Representative Ralston, 7th) Property; railroads; provisions

Representative Ralston presented the bill as a committee substitute and explained that this legislation will clarify the scope of the provisions applicable to the acquisition of title to land by adverse possession, the acquisition of easements and private ways through prescription, and the acquisition of land by railroad corporations or railroad companies. Senator Rogers, 21st, offered an amendment to add Section 10 to revise Code Section 44-5-40, relating to conveyance of future interests or estates, as follows: “44-5-40, Future and vested interests in property or estates are descendible, devisable, and alienable in the same manner as estates in possession.” Senator Rogers, 21st, made the motion that the amendment to **HB 430 “DO PASS.”** Senator Chance, 16th, seconded the motion. The amendment passed 7-0. Senator Mullis, 53rd, made a motion that the substitute to **HB 430** as amended “**DO PASS by Substitute.**” The bill passed 7-0.

HB 451 (Representative Lewis, 15th) Georgia Tourism Development Act; enact

Representative Lewis presented the bill and explained that this legislation creates the “Georgia Tourism Development Act” which provides for a tax refund program for sales and use taxes paid by companies creating certain tourism attractions. Fred Bentley, Jr. from Six Flags/White Water and Shawn Davis from Reynolds Plantation and Lake Lanier Islands Resort spoke in support of the bill. Senator Seabaugh, 28th, offered a substitute to HB 451, LC 25 4942S, to change page 2, line 6, to provide for a 15 percent tax credit to the production company instead of 9 percent.

Senator Rogers, 21st, offered an amendment to support established attractions. Senator Rogers, 21st, made the motion that the amendment to **HB 451 “DO PASS.”** Senator Schaefer, 50th, seconded the motion. The amendment passed 7-0. Senator Mullis, 53rd, made the motion that the substitute to [HB 451](#) as amended **“DO PASS by Substitute.”** Senator Rogers, 21st, seconded the motion. The bill passed 7-0.

[HB 291](#) (Representative Wilkinson, 52nd) Georgia Council for the Arts; Georgia Arts Alliance; create

Representative Wilkinson presented the bill and explained that this legislation creates the Georgia Arts Alliance which will be a private entity to foster a public-private partnership for the support of the arts, education, economic development, and tourism in this state. John Sibley from the Woodruff Arts Center and Jan Selman from the Arts Leadership League of Georgia spoke in support of the bill. Senator Nancy Schaefer spoke in opposition to this bill and offered a substitute. Kathy Williams from the Advisory Board of the Georgia Council for the Arts spoke in opposition to the bill and in support of the substitute. Lee Hughes from the Savannah College of Art and Design spoke against the substitute and in favor of the original bill. Senator Chance, 16th, made the motion that [HB 291](#) **“DO PASS.”** Senator Hooks, 14th, seconded the motion. The bill passed 6-1; Senator Nancy Schaefer, 50th, was opposed.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Senator Joseph Carter of the 13th, Secretary

/s/ Donna Yeomans, Recording Secretary

April 20, 2007

Mr. Bob Ewing
Secretary of the Senate
353 State Capitol Bldg.
Atlanta, GA 30334

Dear Mr. Ewing,

I hereby submit that the Senate Economic Development Committee has taken action on all bills assigned to the committee during the 2007 Legislative session of the General Assembly, and we do not have any remaining legislation to return.

Sincerely,

/s/ Donna Yeomans
Recording Secretary
Senate Economic Development Committee